

Panel Ymgynghorol yr Iaith Gymraeg

Welsh Language Advisory Panel

4 October 2016 at 2 p.m.

Democratic Services Unit Committee Room, County Hall, Carmarthen

MINUTES AND ACTION POINTS

In attendance:

Name:		Group / Post:
Cllr. Mair Stephens	MS	Executive Board Member (Chair)
Cllr. Cefin Campbell	CC	Plaid Cymru (Vice-chair)
Cllr. Deryk Cundy	DC	Labour
Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths	PHG	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Ryan Bartlett	RT	Labour
Cllr. Gwyn Hopkins	GH	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Joseph Davies	JD	Independent
Officers		
Llinos Evans	LIE	Policy and Partnership Officer
Matthew Adams	MA	Active young people Officer
Myfanwy Jones	MJ	Welsh Language Policy Officer

Item	Text and action points:	Responsible :
1.	Welcome and Apologies Councillor Edward Thomas.	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be correct.	
3.	Language Leaders presentation, Leisure Matthew Adams gave a presentation: a summary of his background, coming from a non-Welsh speaking background, he set about to learn Welsh. Has been working with the Council since 2008. He explained his motivation to be a leader Language, and explained the background to his work in the field of leisure. He gave a summary of the English companies they have influenced. He explained the role of the Language Leaders, and the main Standards that	

	<p>impacted on his department. He explained the purpose of the Language leaders training, and he outlined the initial developments that have resulted from the Leisure Language Leaders’ monthly meetings.</p> <p>The Department of Sport and Leisure were congratulated on the developments and Mat thanked for the presentation.</p> <p>It was noted that this is a good example to other departments and that the work will be extended to two other department shortly.</p> <p>It was commented that this good will needs to be transferred into the language of the provision. In order to normalize the language, the provision needs to be Welsh. The provision in Carmarthenshire was discussed.</p> <p>A new program for children aged 4 -7 is beginning shortly, and will be provided in the main Leisure Centers in Carmarthenshire. It is a good opportunity to provide in Welsh from the outset.</p> <p>Enquiries were made about the other divisions within leisure. It was explained that it is sport and leisure side and libraries that has embraced the project best, but that we are trying to attract museums and galleries at the moment, but plan to leave parks staff until after the restructuring.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Promotion Strategy</p> <p>Members discussed the suggestion from Ffred Ffransis (Cymdeithas yr Iaith) with regards to the relationship between the Promotion Strategy and the ‘Welsh in Carmarthenshire’ report. CH suggested that the implementation of the recommendations is our main work and if it possible to bring the two documents together by including the recommendations as an action plan to the Promotion Strategy that would be satisfactory.</p> <p>All documents and Welsh forums in Carmarthenshire were. BC suggested that the role of the panel is to look after all the elements of Report except for the education recommendations that come under the remit of Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). MS indicated that the education recommendations should also be in the WESP.</p> <p>MS agreed that there was a risk of being swamped with strategic work and slipping on operational work.</p> <p>PHG agreed that an example of good implementational work was given today, but that the situation with regards to the work on the ground needs to be reviewed.</p> <p>The role of the County Strategic Forum was discussed in relation to the promotion strategy. Many of the bodies are going to be responsible for implementing many of the recommendations. However, they will also have a role in scrutinizing the work the Council is doing. Welsh service needs to be the norm.</p>	

	<p>It was noted that Council policy is not always being implemented, as was seen in the place names signs.</p> <p>It was agreed that the recommendations of the Welsh in Carmarthenshire report should be merged with the Promotion Strategy and to keep the Standards Action Plan as a separate internal document. It was agreed that a piece of work would be done to create the Action Plan that would reflect this decision.</p> <p>The need for more information from the Department of Education was discussed.</p> <p>The panel is responsible for the Welsh in Carmarthenshire Report as well as the Promotion Strategy.</p> <p>We need to ensure that the Standards action plan feeds back into the Promotion Strategy.</p>	Policy Unit
5.	<p>The Government’s consultation on ‘Welsh Language Strategy’</p> <p>The response will be submitted in Cllr Mair Stephens’ name.</p> <p>The document was discussed question by question and the consultation document was populated there and then as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relationship between protecting Welsh speaking communities and developing the language in areas where there is a lower density of Welsh speakers was discussed and a need for differing responses for the different types of areas • A need for area-based targets, interim targets and coordination with the Promotion Strategy. • The targets should include economic objectives as well. • A need to pay attention to percentages as well as numbers. • To note what the council can do, but also indicate that we need government support in terms of the planning department, education etc. • The need to provide a way forward on dealing with housing developments that can have an adverse effect on the language, looking at the types of houses that are being built and the impact it has on the language. New housing developments with new schools should be Welsh medium. • The need to win the hearts of non-Welsh speakers. The need for marketing campaigns. Language awareness sessions in the workplace. Need to educate / inform people about the language and its legacy. • Welsh will need to be made more popular, media, computer games, and popular culture. Need to display the personal benefits of Welsh. • The need for resources was mentioned. • Marketing to companies working over the UK. Need to insist on Welsh provision for Wales. A strategy is needed for this. • Need to market the value of learning the language and being bilingual. Language a treasure like all languages. • Baseline in terms of data • Need to create the demand for Welsh education instead of responding to the demand. 	

6.	Date of the next meeting With the Minister Alun Davies AM, on the 31 October and then 15.12.2016 at 14:00	
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